

2004 GALVESTON BAY INVASIVE SPECIES RISK ASSESSMENT
INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMARY

Created by: Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake
and the Houston Advanced Research Center

Species Name: Tambaqui (black pacu, cachama, blackfin pacu).
Latin Name: <i>Colossoma macropomum</i>
Category: Aquatic Animal
Place of Origin: Tropical America. "Native to the Amazon and Orinoco river basins of South America (Machado-Allison 1982; Araujo-Lima and Goulding 1997) (http://nas.er.usgs.gov/fishes/accounts/characid/co_macro.html)."
Place of Introduction: "Reported in five states, including California, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Texas. Most U.S. records represent collections of single fish taken by anglers. (http://nas.er.usgs.gov/fishes/accounts/characid/co_macro.html)."
Date of Introduction: Collected between 1968 and 1993 (http://nas.er.usgs.gov/fishes/accounts/characid/co_macro.html).
Growth/Size: To 90 cm SL and 30 kg (http://nas.er.usgs.gov/fishes/accounts/characid/co_macro.html).
Feeding Habits/Diet: "This species has a dentition like a horse and is also equipped with fine gill rakers. This allows it to feed on nuts and seeds, which it is uniquely able to crush, and zooplankton. This combination allows tambaqui to feed in the forest at high water and within floodplain lakes at low water. Tambaqui is a predator when young (http://www.amazonian-fish.co.uk/indexgast.html)."
Habitat: "They breed in the main river channels within meanders where there are fallen trees and the young larvae drift down stream and enter the floodplain with the flood water. Initially, they enter the floating meadows where they can shelter and find food (http://www.amazonian-fish.co.uk/indexgast.html)."
Physical Description: "This peaceful fish looks like a piranha when young, which protects it from predators, but as it grows the large brown spots disappear from its silver body and red-tinged anal fin (http://www.denverzoo.org/animalsplants/fish/fish_others/fish_others.htm)."
References (includes journals, agency/university reports, and internet links): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. http://nas.er.usgs.gov/fishes/accounts/characid/co_macro.html. USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species.2. http://www.amazonian-fish.co.uk/indexgast.html. Amazonian fishes and their habitat.3. http://www.denverzoo.org/animalsplants/fish/fish_others/fish_others.htm. Denver Zoo. Virtual zoo tour.4. Machado-Allison, A. 1982. Estudio sobre la subfamilia Serrasalminae (Teleostei, Characidae). Prte 1. Estudio comparado de los juveniles de las "cachamas" de Venezuela (generos <i>Colossoma</i> y <i>Piaractus</i>). Acta Biologica Venezuelica 11(3):1-101.5. Araujo-Lima, C., and M. Goulding. In press. So fruitful a fish: conservation biology of the Amazon's tambaqui. Columbia University Press, New York, NY.
Available Mapping Information: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species. http://nas.er.usgs.gov/fishes/accounts/characid/co_macro.html
Notes: A common aquarium fish.